

STREET CORNER DRUG
USE IN METROPOLITAN
MANILA: A COMPARISON
OF TWO SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CATEGORIES OF ILLICIT
SOCIAL DRUG USERS

BY

RICARDO M. ZARCO AND ASSOCIATES

MANILA: 1972

COMMISSIONED STUDY BY THE NARCOTICS FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NARCOTICS
FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC., OCTOBER 31, 1972

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I INTRODUCTION

1. Nature of the Study

Drug abusers, in this country belong to two general categories - those who are in prison and those who are at large. These two groups differ in many ways. One way in which they differ is the socio-economic status or social class to which they belong. The affluent drug-abuser is seldom encountered by police authorities and is, therefore, not sent to jail for his offense. Hospital services are usually available to him and offer the relief that such institutions provide for those who can afford their services.

The urban drug - abuser from the lower socio-economic classes comes into the purview of police authorities and is handled as a police case. The courts send him to jail for his offense, or according to the wish of the judge, to a rehabilitation center.

There are exceptions to this pattern, but these exceptions are rare.

This study sets out to compare and contrast a prison population of drug-abusers from the Manila City Jail against drug abusers who are not in jail.

The subjects of this study are 91 drug abusers confined in the Manila City Jail. This is the total population. No sampling was done. For contrast, 119 cases of drug abusers from the Manila and Suburbs were studied. There is no reliable information available

as to how many drug abusers there are at large in the Greater Manila Area. From this unknown population, 150 cases were interviewed but only 119 were actually used in this study.¹ The rest of the cases were not used because the interviews were unfinished, some responses were inconsistent. In some cases, the respondents were either incoherent or indisposed.

The educational attainment of the father was used as indicator to denote the socio-economic level or social class of the drug-abuser. Family income per annum would, of course, have been a more accurate indicator but this information is not usually available from the respondents. Occupation of parents is another indicator which could have been used, but since an objective occupational scale has not yet been developed in this country, this indicator was given up in favor of the educational attainment of the father.

The fathers of the drug abusers in the Manila City Jail have an average (modal) educational attainment of 10 years. In terms of our school system, this means a completed high school education. The fathers of the drug-abusers at large average 14 years of schooling - in short they had the benefits of a college education. The difference of four years, tested statistically, is a true difference.²

TABLE I

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF DRUG ABUSERS' FATHER
(Socio-Economic Level Indicator)

Educational Attainment	Manila City Jail	Metropolitan Manila
Categories	Inmates Pop - 91	Drug Abusers at Large
		Sample: 119
	No. of : % of	No. of Cases : % of Sample
	Cases : Pop.	
No Schooling	6 : 6.59	1 : 0.84
Elementary not completed	5 : 5.49	0 : 0.00
Elementary completed	15 : 16.48	0 : 0.00
High School not completed	11 : 12.09	1 : 0.84
High School completed	21 : 23.08	6 : 5.04
College not completed	10 : 10.99	8 : 6.72
College Completed	9 : 9.89	87 : 73.11
Post Graduated	0 : 0.00	16 : 13.45
Dont Know	7 : 7.69	0 : 0.00
No Response	7 : 7.69	0 : 0.00
Total	91 : 100.00	119 : 100.00

2. Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study is to contrast epidemiological factors of upper and lower class drug abusers in Metropolitan Manila. This contrast would entail the presentation of basic information which involves: identification of specific drugs currently used today, sequential development of drug abuse patterns, description of the frequency to which two populations use prohibited drugs.

The contrast further describes the manner by which drug abuse spreads, how other persons close to the victim attempts to intervene

in the process. Still on contrast, specific profile variables are described quantitatively, at the onset of drug abuse. These are variables like age, educational activities, sex membership, and residential centers of intensive drug abuse. As antecedents of the drug abuse process, an attempt is made to discuss tobacco (cigarette) and alcohol drinking, delinquency, and prior knowledge of drug danger as they relate to the phenomenon. The study upon completion is hoped to provide private and governmental agencies in the treatment and control of drug abuse specific information which has not been studied before.

II RESEARCH FINDINGS -- BASIC DATA

1. Drugs Use by Two Populations

In a structured interview, both drug-abusing population were asked what drugs they were using or had used. To aid their memory a list of commonly abused drugs was read to them. Drugs used by the respondents which were not in the list were duly noted and recorded.

The prison population of drug abusers in the Manila City Jail which comes from the lower class used an average (mean) of 3 to 4 different drug types. The drug abusers at large who come from the more affluent classes an average of 6 to 7 drug types. The differential between the number of drugs used by these two populations was statistically tested and found to be significant.³ See tables 2 and 3.

Drugs Illicitly Used by Metropolitan Manila Abusers at Large
(Sample Size: 119) March, April, 1972.

Drug Type	No of Cases Admitting Use	% of Sample Size	Rank Order
1. Marijuana	116	97	1
2. Mandrax	98	82	2
3. LSD	72	60	3
4. Benzedrine	70	59	4
5. Seconal	57	48	5
6. Other Drugs	52	44	6
7. Cocaine	50	42	7
8. Mescaline	47	39	8
9. Heroin	44	37	9
10. Methamphetamine	38	32	10
11. Opium	35	29	11
12. Dexedrine	23	19	12
13. Dexamyl	18	15	13
14. Phenobarbital	14	12	14
15. Morphine	10	8	15.5
16. STP	10	8	15.5
17. Demerol	5	4	17
18. Methadone	2	2	18

TABLE 3

Drugs Illicitly Use by Manila City Jail Inmates (Population: 91),
March, 1972.

Drug Type	No of Cases Admitting Use	% of Sample Size	Rank Order
1. Mandrax	65	71	1
2. Seconal	54	59	2
3. Opium	37	41	3
4. Heroin	35	38	4
5. Morphine	33	36	5
6. Marijuana	32	35	6
7. LSD	9	10	7
8. Other Drugs	8	9	8
9. Benzedrine	4	4	9.5
10. Phenobarbital	4	4	9.5
11. Methamphetamine	3	3	11
12. Cocaine	2	2	13.5
13. Demerol	2	2	13.5
14. Dexedrine	2	2	13.5
15. Methadone	2	2	13.5
16. Dexamyl	1	1	17
17. Mescaline	1	1	17
18. STP	1	1	17

There are a number of significant inferences which can be drawn from the figures on these two tables.

(a) The addicting opiates are not too popular among the urban drug abusers at large but are more popular with the prison population.

(b) Mandrax (Methaqualone) and seconal ranked high for both populations.

(c) There seems to be very little similarity in the proportions or percentages of abuse of each drug type for both populations.⁴

(d) The strikingly large difference in the percentage of use of each drug type, save for a few cases, reveal the existence of two very heterogenous or dissimilar categories of drug abusers. For instance, one notices that 97% of the drug abusers at large uses marijuana compared to only 35% who have used it among the prison population. Similar difference shows in the use of LSD.

(e) Demand and supply of the drugs may also be inferred from the tables, Marijuana is apparently demanded and supplied in greater quantities to the more affluent drug abusers than to those who comprise the prison population.

2. The Drug Abuse Sequence

An important factor in understanding drug abuse is the progression in the use of a variety of drugs, which the drug abuser experiments with. The two populations under comparison, as may be expected, manifest differences in the sequential development of drug abuse. The subjects were asked to recount in chronological order, the

sequence in which they took drugs. This clearly gives an indication as to how drug abuse begins as well as the drugs of choice for the beginner. The tables below summarize the data.

TABLE 4

Metro Manila Drug Abusers at Large, Drug Abuse Sequence
(Sample Size: 119), April, 1972.

Stage	Drug Type	No of Cases Reported	% of Sample
1st	Marijuana	92	77.31
2nd	Benzedrine, Other Drugs	33; 11	27.7 ; 9.24
3rd	Mandrax, Methamphetamine	29; 10	24.4 ; 8.4
4th	LSD, Seconal	18; 14	15.12; 11.76
5th	Mescaline	11	9.24
6th	Cocaine	10	8.4

#Frequencies below 10 are not included in listing
##These "other drugs" do not include addicting opiates.

TABLE 5

Manila City Jail Drug Offender's Drug Abuse Sequence
(Population: 91) March, 1972

Stage	Drug Type	No of Cases Reported	% of Sample
1st	Addicting Opiates		
	Combined:		
	Heroin - 16		
	Morphine - 12	37	40.65
	Opium - 9		
1st	Mandrax, Marijuana	28; 9	30.76; 9.89
2nd	Seconal	20	21.97

#Frequencies below 9 are not included. Below 9, the next frequency recorded is 4 and the rest are uniformly lower.

While the above tables show that addicting opiates are not the first drugs taken by the drug abusers at large, they do show that marijuana as an introductory drug towards drug abuse progression rates very highly. For the prison population, addicting opiates constitute the introductory drug for the majority.⁵ In the later stages, such differences also become manifest to bolster the principle that variation in drug use is closely associated with the later sophistication with which drug abusers use drugs.

As has been stated, the prison population used addicting opiates as "starter" drugs. Mandrax and marihuana were also used as "starters" but to a much lesser extent.

The differences in the use of the non-narcotics drugs show no set pattern for both populations. Second, however, is a drug taken quite early by a significant percent of the prison population.

The abuse of cocaine is unique in the comparison of these drug-abusing populations. Its relative absence from the prison population (2% incidence of use) and high incidence among the drug-abusers at large (44% incidence of use) does not explain this drug's sequential position as abused by those in the affluent group. Cocaine is a later stage drug among the affluent drug abusers. No case is recorded where cocaine is used as a "starter". Recorded frequencies of use of cocaine build up slowly reaching its peak (mode) between the 6th and 7th stages of drug abuse sequence, and then tapers off to zero at the 12th stage.

It is correct to state that cocaine is almost exclusively used by the affluent drug abusers who have had earlier experiences with a wide variety of drugs.

3. Frequencies of Abuse to Specific Drugs of Two Populations

Another factor of drug consumption is the frequency with which the drug abusing populations use specific types of drugs.

The high frequency of use of certain drugs may indicate either physiological or psychological dependence or both. Drugs, on the other hand, which are used infrequently may have other functions such as satisfying quasi-medical or social needs. Benzedrine, for instance, is popular among students who desire to keep alert and awake while cramming for exams. The tables show its modal frequency as a drug of occasional use. The tables show a low frequency of abuse among the affluent drug takers for such drugs as LSD, Cocaine, seconal, mescaline, heroin, speed and opium. Only marihuana and mandrax are used with any frequency - more than twice a week. These, however, are used in the company of others in social and convivial gatherings.

Manila City Jail drug offenders do not register low frequency use of drugs in the selected list. The group's obvious lack of restraint is manifested in the recorded maximum frequency use of hypnotics and barbiturates. (Table 7 Scale.)

TABLE 6

Metro Manila Drug Abusers at Large, (Sample Size: 119), April, 1972

Drug Type	FREQUENCY OF DRUG USE						
	Once or Twice	Occasional Use	Once a Month	Once a Week	2x4 Week	More than 2x weekly	No. of Users
Marijuana	6	14	10	8	9	69	116
Mandrax	9	29	9	11	10	30	98
LSD	19	26	12	4	3	8	72
Benzedrine	11	37	6	7	2	7	70
Seconal	22	15	2	8	3	7	57
Cocaine	24	12	3	3	1	7	50
Mescaline	19	17	3	4	2	2	47
Heroin	10	18	2	3	3	8	44
Methamphetamine	11	14	0	7	2	4	38
Opium	14	11	2	2	2	4	35

TABLE 7

Manila City Jail Drug Offenders - (Population: 91) March, 1972

Drug Type	FREQUENCY OF DRUG USE						
	Once or Twice	Occasional Use	Once a Month	Once a Week	2x4 Week	More than 2x weekly	No. of Users
Mandrax	8	4	2	4	3	44	65
Seconal	8	3	2	3	4	34	54
Opium	0	0	0	0	0	37	37
Heroin	0	1	0	1	0	33	35
Morphine	1	0	0	2	1	29	33
Marijuana	2	3	2	1	1	23	32

III. SOME EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FACTORS OF DRUG ABUSE

1. Incidence Not Known

The term social drug abuser refers to a person who was influenced by others to abuse drugs. There are several categories of social drug abusers. Some are narcotic dependents or narcotic addicts, other are non-narcotics abusers, still others are concurrent drug abusers - those who use both narcotics and non-narcotics concurrently. Their number is not known. National law enforcement agencies (Philippine Constabulary, National Bureau of Investigation) have estimated opiate dependents or narcotic addicts at 10,000 - this figure is a nationwide estimate. While the figure cited may be correct, the empirical methodology used in order to arrive at this estimate is not specific and therefore renders the result dubious.

There are, however, a few known facts regarding narcotics addiction today. One of these facts is that drug abuse is definitely on the increase both in volume and incidence. Another is that more Filipinos are involved today as compared to the previous history of addiction in this country where the greater number of offenders were Chinese. It is also known that the average age of the drug abuser is getting lower all the time-younger people are abusing drugs. It is also known that more and more non-narcotics drugs are being abused concurrently with the opiates or narcotics drugs.

2. The Spread of Social Drug Abuse

The pattern of drug abuse is acquired by association with drug abusers. Social drug abusers wittingly or unwittingly contaminate others as a general rule.

To illustrate this principle, two types of data are necessary.

a) a clear report showing that drug abusers had associated with other drug abusers prior to their own experience with drugs.

b) a clear indication as to who initiated the subjects to drug use and consequent abuse.

TABLE 8

Responses to the question "Did you associate closely with persons using drugs before you started to use prohibited drugs?"

Response:	: Manila City Jail : Inmates (Pop-91) : No. of Cases		: Metro Manila Drug Abuser : at large (Sample: 119) : No. of Cases	
No	: 4	4.40%	: 13	10.92%
Yes	: 86	94.50%	: 106	88.08%
No response	: 1	1.10%	: 00	0.00%
Total	: 91	100.00%	: 119	99.00%

TABLE 9

Responses to question: "Who would you consider responsible for teaching or initiating you to use drugs?"

Response Alternatives (Mutually exclusive)##	: Manila City Jail : Inmates (Pop: 86) : No. of Cases		: Metro Manila Drug Abusers : at large (Sample: 106) : No. of Cases	
Family relatives	: 0	0.00%	: 9	8.49%
Non family relatives	: 1	1.16%	: 6	5.66%
Schoolmates	: 2	2.33%	: 37	34.90%
Gangmates###	: 70	91.86%	: 53	50.00%
Sweetheart	: 1	1.16%	: 1	0.94%
Others	: 3	3.48%	: 6	5.66%
Total	: 86	100.00%	: 106	100.00%

Friends who are not schoolmates
Restricted to one choice only

Tables 8 and 9 clearly illustrate the spread of drug abuse by association and specifically

- a) through gangmates (92%) of the Manila City Jail population
- b) through gangmates (50%) and schoolmates (35%) of the drug abusers at large in Metropolitan Manila.

3. Key Persons Attempting to Prevent Drug Abusers from Getting Further Involved in the Use of Prohibited Drugs

While the drug abuser progressively gets more involved in the use of drugs, there are usually key persons in his life who take notice and care enough to intervene. For both population studied, 80% stated that there were such persons in their lives. Only 20% of the subjects claimed that no one bothered to help them or prevent them from becoming drug abusers. As may be expected, the key persons who care enough to intervene are family members (parents, siblings, spouse). Our table shows that this is true for most of the cases (50-51%). Some of the drug abusers report that their own gangmates and schoolmates, in mutual efforts, attempted to prevent each other's deeper involvement in drugs, but not to the same degree that these associates have been reported as the initiators into drug abuse. See Table 10 and 11 below.

TABLE 10

Responses to the question: Were there persons who attempted to prevent you from using drugs upon their learning that you have used drugs.?

	Manila City Jail:		Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large	
	No. of Cases	%	No. of Cases	%
None	10	11.4	35	29.7
Yes	78	38.6	83	70.3
Total	88	100.00	118	100.00

TABLE 11

Persons who tried to prevent drug abusing respondent from using drugs

Response categories (not mutually exclusive) #	Manila City Jail:		Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large	
	No. of Cases	%	No. of Cases	%
Family relatives	63	55.75	54	51.43
Non family relatives	10	8.85	4	3.81
Schoolmates	4	3.54	11	10.48
Gangmates	22	19.47	17	16.19
Sweetheart	11	9.73	17	16.19
Fraternity Society	00	00	1	0.95
Teachers	00	00	1	0.95
Total	113	100.00	105	100.00

#Respondent may answer more than one response category.

4. Education Variables

The general impression that drug abuse is acquired by youths in out-of-school environments such as street corners, poolrooms, etc., is not quite accurate. The drug abusers at large are initiated into the use of drugs while in school. See Table 12.

TABLE 12

Schooling Activity at the Onset of Drug Abuse

Schooling Activity	Manila City Jail Drug Offenders (Population: 91)	Metro Manila Drug Offenders at large Sample: 118
In School when drug abuse began	41 45.05%	114 96.61%
Out of school when drug abuse began	50 54.94%	4 3.38%
Total	91 100.00%	118 100.00%

Table 12 also indicates the proportion of drug abusers which could be reached by an educational preventive program since many of the drug abusers were in school when they were first initiated into this form of abuse. Those out of school are the "unreachables". They are out in the streets of the city. Table 12 shows that the onset of drug abuse among the affluent occurs while the youths are in school. On the other hand, among the drug abusers in the Manila City Jail, the table shows that half started drug abuse in school and the other half out on the streets.

Another educational variable explored is the academic level reached by both populations when drug abuse began.⁶ What is interesting in this contrast between the two populations is that there are peak levels when drug abuse begins. These levels are contrasted in Table 13.

TABLE 13

Academic Levels When Drug Abuse Began

Academic Level	Manila City Jail Inmates in School (Pop. = 41)		Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large in School (Sample = 114)	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Grades 1-3	2	4.88	0	0.00
Grade 4-7	7	17.07	11	9.65
High School 1-2	23	56.10	18	15.79
High School 3-4	7	17.07	40	35.09
College 1-2	2	4.88	42	36.84
College 3-4	0	0.00	3	2.63
Beyond Undergraduate College	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	41	100.00	114	100.00

Working class drug abusers in school start relatively early reaching peak frequency at first and second years of high school. The affluent drug abusers start later, reaching peak frequencies at 3rd and 4th years of high school up to and until the freshman and sophomore years in college. Thereafter an abrupt drop is observed. The above data besides explicating an epidemiological factor of drug abuse are also very relevant for educators in developing policies on drug prevention programmes.

5. Age When Drug Abuse Begins

In contrasting the ages when drug abuse begins the two populations exhibit the following similarities:

- a) The modal age cohort for both populations is between 16 and 18 years of age

b) The averages (mean) are quite close - 17.58 years and 16.25 years of age for the prison population and the drug abusers at large respectively.

The difference which is obvious is that the prison population exhibit a wider dispersion, an age range spread in contrast to the other population which is narrower. See Table 14 below, which includes the ages of drug abusers in and out of school.

TABLE 14

Age When Drug Abuse Begins

Manila City Jail Inmates (Population: 90)			Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large, (Sample: 119)		
Age Cohorts	No. of Cases	%	No. of Cases	%	
7 - 9	0	0.00	1	0.84	
10 -12	3	3.33	2	1.68	
13 -15	22	24.44	34	28.57	
16 -18	39	43.33	73	61.34	
19 -21	15	16.66	9	7.56	
22 -24	7	7.77	0	00.00	
25 -27	1	1.11	0	00.00	
28 -30	2	2.22	0	00.00	
31 -33	1	1.11	0	00.00	
Total	90	99.97	119	99.99	

mean age - 17.58

mean age - 16.25

The age when specific drugs were abused is another inquiry in the study which revealed rather surprising findings. The mean age when drug abusers start experimenting with various drugs shows that the progress occurs very rapidly - within a few weeks. The very

short differentials between the mean ages as shown in Table 15 bear this out.

TABLE 15

Mean Age When Drug Abusers Began Using Specific Drugs, Manila City Jail Inmates (Population: 91) March, 1972

Drugs Taken	Mean Age When Taken	No. of Cases.
Heroin	18.11 years old	35
Mandrax	18.46	66
Seconal	18.46	54
Marihuana	18.50	34
Opium	18.77	35
Morphine	19.34	32

Since the working class youths take an average of 3 to 4 different drugs types, the above mentioned data suggests the rapidity of drug experimentation once it has begun. These data further suggest why parents of these youths would hardly notice any behavioral changes especially when they are preoccupied with other matters until serious dependence on drugs has already developed and detection comes too late.

For the affluent drug abuser at large, the onset of drug taking is somewhat earlier and more drawn out before real abuse of the more addicting opiates develops, see Table 16 below.

TABLE 16

Mean age when drug abusers began using Specific drugs, Metropolitan Manila Drug Abusers (Sample: 119) April, 1972.

Drug Taken	Mean Age When Taken;	Wo. of Cases	%
Mandrax	15.07 years old	98	
Marijuana	16.45	117	
Benzedrine	16.69	69	
Seconal	17.11	51	
LSD	17.56	72	
Mescaline	17.69	46	
Cocaine	18.04		
Addicting opiates			
Opium	17.71	32	
Morphine	17.87	8	
Heroin	18.04	42	

These data further support a hypothesis of a previous study that variety rather than frequency of drug use is a more important indicator of drug dependency.⁷ Parenthetically, it might be pointed out that chronic alcoholism takes one to two decades to develop and heavy cigarette smoking (about two packs a day) takes two to six years. In contrast, in this study, drug abusers used three to six types of drugs in period of a few weeks.

6. Drug Abuser's Actual Age (Age When Interviewed)

One very unusual finding of this study is the total absence of middle aged drug abusers. Where are the older opiate addicts? In an earlier, study, covering the period 1950 to 1959, the mean age of

persons arrested for using opium and its alkaloids was from 45 to 50 years.⁸ If traffickers in drugs are to be included, the mean age drops to 40 - 45. Today, after two decades, the ages of the City Jail population of drug abusers have dropped - more than 20 years. See Table 17 below.

TABLE 17
Drug Abusers's Actual Age Upon Interview
(March-April, 1972)

Age Cohorts	Manila City Jail Inmates: (Population: 88)		Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large (Sample: 118)	
	No. of Cases	%	No. of Cases	%
15 - 17	13	14.78	15	12.71
18 - 20	31	35.22	34	71.18
21 - 23	22	25.00	18	15.30
24 - 26	12	13.63	1	0.84
27 - 29	2	2.27	0	00.00
30 - 32	4	4.54	0	00.00
33 - 35	3	3.40	0	00.00
36 - 37	1	1.14	0	00.00
Total	88	88.00	118	100.00

Calculated roughly, it may be stated that from 1950 to the present (1972), the rate at which the mean age of drug abusers has decreased is one per year.

This, however, does not answer our query as to why there are no middle aged drug abusers in the two populations studied. The probable answer is that the average life expectancy of the drug abuser is lower than the general urban population. Those who have studied drug abuse of any description in this country realize that

the probability of a lower class drug (opiate) abuser to successfully and permanently recover from drug abuse is practically nil. The combined factors of drug abuse, poverty and lack of personal discipline work against the addict of the urban slum, hence death at an early age is the consequence. This explanation has not yet been empirically established, to date and, therefore, suggests a significant area of research. Very little is known about drug abuse among the older affluent inhabitants of Metropolitan Manila. The phenomenon is too recent even to speculate on an answer to the query raised here.

7. Tobacco and Alcohol Use as Antecedents to Drug Abuse

Clinicians concerned with the problem of addiction theorize that this type of behavior is a symptom of an underlying personality problem and that previous exposure to tobacco and alcohol pave the way to more serious forms of drug abuse. This theory also attempts to explain the proneness of some individuals to take drugs. Evidence of a statistical nature, somewhat fragmentary, upholds some elements of this theory. These are:

a) A very large proportion of drug users smoke cigarettes. Cigarette smoking starts two to three years before drug experimentation. Correlations between age when the drug abuser started on drugs against the age when he started smoking indicate a direct relationship.

b) Regular consumption of alcoholic beverages has a slightly lower proportion in contrast to cigarette smoking. The proportion

is noticeably higher among the drug abusers of the prison population. The mean ages when both populations started drinking were earlier than smoking. Correlations computed to link the age when drugs were first used versus age when drinking started are both significant and direct.

c) While this study was not attempted primarily to test this clinical theory of drug abuse, some data came in to lend statistical support to the theory that cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption are antecedents of drug abuse. See Table 18 for comparative data on the topic.

TABLE 18

(a) Cigarette Smoking Comparative Data:

	Manila City Jail Inmates: (Population: 91)	Metro Manila Drug Abusers at large (Sample: 119)
Percentage of Cigarette Smokers	12% smoke less than: 10 sticks a day 91% 88% smoke more than: than 10 sticks a day	13% smoke less than 10 sticks per day 86% 87% smoke more than 10 sticks a day
Mean age when they started smoking cigarettes	14.80 (based on 83 cases)	14.57 (based on 102 cases)
Mean age when they started to use prohibited drugs	17.58	16.25
Correlation [#] between age started smoking vs. age started using prohibited drugs	r = 0.38 (n = 83, sig. at 1%)	r = 0.54 (n = 102, sig. at 1%)

[#] Pearsons product moment formula

(b) Alcohol Drinking Comparative Data:

	: Manila City Jail Inmates: : (Population 91) :	: Metro Manila Drug : Abusers at large : (Sample: 119)
Percentage of Drug abusers who drink alcoholic beverages	: 35% are : occasional and : once a month : drinkers : 77% : 65% are regular : weekly drinkers :	: 72% are : occasional and : monthly drinkers : 84% : 28% are regular : weekly drinkers :
Mean age when they started drinking	: 15.87 : (based on 69 cases) : :	: 15.17 : (based on 88 cases) : :
Mean age when they started to use prohibited drugs	: 17.58 : : :	: 16.25 : : :
Correlation [#] between age started drinking Vs. age when they started using prohi- bited drugs	: r = 0.58 : (n = 69, Sig. at 1%) : :	: r = 0.30 : (n = 88, Sig. at 1%) : :

[#]
Pearsons product moment formula

8. Tondo - An Urban Epidemic Area of Drug Abuse

Tondo is a district of the City of Manila with a long history of opiate abuse dating from the Spanish occupation of the Philippines. The drugs used were opium and morphine. Heroin, however, came into use in Tondo in 1950 and since then, the number of heroin users in this area has increased tremendously. From March 1965 to February 1971, a six year period, there were a total of 779 drug addicts sent to the Department of Justice Rehabilitation Center in Tagaytay (NBI), of these, 606 came from the City of Manila (78%) and the rest came from the greater Manila Area and Luzon. Of the 606 addicts who came from Manila, the highest number came from Tondo which is the first district listed below on Table 19. A staggering 85% of the total number of addicts from Manila comes from Tondo.

TABLE 19

Residence of Drug addicts from City of Manila who were admitted into the Department of Justice, Narcotics Rehabilitation Center Tagaytay, March 1965 to February 1971.

<u>Manila Districts</u>	<u>No. of Addicts</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
District I (Tondo)	517	85.31
District 2 (Binondo, Quiapo San Nicolas, Santa Cruz)	18	2.97
District 3 (Sampaloc)	17	2.80
District 4 (Ermita, Intramuros, Malate, Paco, Pandacan, Sta. Ana, Port Area)	54	8.9
Total	606	99.8

There is a powerful crimogenic influence in Tondo with regard to drug abuse. This influence is a well organized narcotics distribution syndicate which has thrived unabated due to continuous political and police protection. The actual area where drug abuse occurs in Tondo, constitutes only a few city blocks. The illegal drug traffic goes on openly in the streets. The identities of the drug traffickers is known to most of the residents of the area. This organized structure, the tolerance of the residents, the presence of a few thousand youths using drugs who infect their classmates and gangmates in a multiplier fashion render the area epidemic to drug abuse.

Currently collected data for this study revealed that the prison population of drug abusers were born in Tondo (51%), spent their first ten years of life in Tondo (58%); actually reside in Tondo (62%).

Tondo is the center of lower class drug abuse in the country today.

Affluent drug abusers in Metropolitan Manila, in contrast, have no particular area of concentration. They are evenly spread out mostly in suburban residential areas and school campuses.

TABLE 20

Birth Places of Drug Abusers, (N= 210) March - April 1972

	Manila City Jail Inmates: Population: 91		Metro Manila Drug Abusers: at large Sample: 119	
	No. of Cases:	%	No. of Cases:	%
MANILA AREAS				
Tondo	46	50.55	4	3.36
Pinondo	1	1.1	1	0.84
Quiapo	0	0.00	2	1.68
Santa Cruz	3	3.30	3	2.52
Sampaloc	4	4.40	12	10.08
Ermita	0	0.00	4	3.36
Malate	0	0.00	3	2.52
Paco	4	4.40	1	0.84
Pandacan	3	3.30	0	0.00
Santa Ana	0	0.00	1	0.84
Port Area	1	1.10	0	0.00
Manila, Not Specified	4	4.40	43	36.13
Areas Outside City of Manila:				
Quezon City	3	3.30	7	5.88
Pasay City	1	1.10	3	2.52
Caloocan City	1	1.10	3	2.52
Makati	1	1.10	2	1.68
Rizal Province not Specified	1	1.10	1	0.84
Olongapo	0	0.00	1	0.84
Cavite	1	1.10	2	1.68
Baguio	0	0.00	4	3.36
Luzon, not Specified:	14	15.38	11	9.24
Visayas	2	2.20	6	5.04
Mindanao	1	1.10	2	1.68
Other Countries	0	0.00	3	2.56
TOTAL	91	100.00	119	100.00

TABLE 21

Areas in Manila and Suburbs where Drug Abusers spent their
childhood years (first 10 years of life),
(N= 196), March-April 1972

: Manila City Jail Inmates: Metro Manila Drug Abusers					
: Population: 88 cases at large Sample: 108					
:					
: No. of Cases : % : No. of Cases: %					
:					
MANILA AREAS:					
:					
Tondo	51	57.95	1	0.9	
Binondo	1	1.1	1	0.9	
Santa Cruz	5	5.7	4	3.7	
Sampaloc	2	2.3	6	5.6	
Ermita	0	0.0	5	4.6	
Malate	1	1.1	3	2.8	
Paco	5	5.7	3	2.8	
Pandacan	3	3.4	0	0.0	
Santa Ana	1	1.1	1	0.9	
Port Area	1	1.1	0	0.0	
Manila Area not Specified	5	5.7	14	13.0	
:					
Areas Outside City of Manila:					
:					
Quezon City	2	2.3	30	27.8	
Pasay City	1	1.1	2	1.9	
Makati	2	2.3	12	11.9	
Mandaluyong	0	0.0	4	3.7	
San Juan					
Caloocan City	2	2.3	3	2.8	
Rizal Province not Specified	0	0.0	3	2.8	
Olongapo	0	0.0	1	0.9	
Cavite	0	0.0	2	1.9	
Baguio	0	0.0	2	1.9	
Luzon, not Specified:	6	6.8	11	10.2	
:					
TOTAL	88	99.95	108	100.0	

9. Delinquency Prior to Drug Abuse

Subjects of both populations being contrasted were asked if they had ever been arrested by the police prior to their use of drugs. The proportions of police arrests of the two populations vary greatly indicating that police arrests prior to drug abuse is associated with low socio-economic status. Obviously, the affluent drug abusers have a low proportion of trouble with the police prior to drug abuse in contrast to the prison population of drug abusers. This finding may also be interpreted to mean that police arrests prior to drug abuse (an indicator of delinquency) is not necessarily predictive of drug abuse.

TABLE 22

Response to the question: Were you ever arrested by the police prior to your using drugs?

Responses Categories	:	:	:	:
	:	Manila City Jail	:	Metro Manila Drug Abusers
	:	Inmates (Pop: 88)	:	at large (Sample: 118)
NO	:	54	:	112
YES	:	34	:	6
TOTAL	:	88	:	118

Chi square value 36.265, 1 degree of freedom
Significant at 1%

10. Sex Membership and Drug Abuse Proneness

Most studies bear out the generalization that males have a higher proneness to drug abuse than females. The query raised by this study is whether or not the sex ratio changes with social status. The answer is yes. The fourfold table below illustrates the difference in proportions.

TABLE 23

Sex Membership of two Drug Abusing Populations

Sex Membership	:	:
	: Manila City Jail : Metro Manila Drug Abusers	
	: Inmates (Pop: 88): at large (Sample: 118)	
	:	:
Male	: 21	: 95
	:	:
Female	: 7	: 23
	:	:
Total	: 88	: 118

Chi square value 5.392, 1 degree of freedom, significant at 5%

The figures show that female involvement in drug abuse increases as social status increases. 92% of the prison population of drug abusers were male, while only 80% of the drug abusers at large were male. The differential of 11.5% between the two populations was found to be statistically significant.

11. Prior Knowledge of the Danger posed by Drug Abuse

Does knowledge that improper use of drugs pose danger to the individual act as a deterrent to drug abuse? The figures in our study do not give a very encouraging answer. 58% of the prison population and 66% of the drug abusers at large declared that they were aware that drug abuse (excluding marijuana) is harmful, addicting, death dealing, as well as socially and morally degrading prior to their first attempts at drug experimentation. Apparently, prior knowledge of the dangers entailed by drug abuse alone is not sufficient to offset whatever factors compel a person to resort to drugs. The above mentioned proportions demonstrate that for both populations, the majority were informed of the dangerous consequences of drug abuse. This new findings have serious implications for the assumed preventive effects which drug information pamphlets, posters, TV programmes and anti-drug appeals have upon the exposed public. As a disease control measure, a purely informational approach may not be effective in the case of drug abuse.

IV. CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

- (a) This study differs from earlier ones in that it covers a wider range of drug abusers from the urban social spectrum. Most of the data utilized are directly taken from drug abusers by a structured interview involving more than 200 cases. Other previous studies have used police statistics mainly, or had used a self-administering questionnaire for data gathering. Some of the subjects included in this study would have never been arrested due to their class status and others can neither read nor write answers to a self-administering questionnaire. For these reasons, we believe it is a pioneer study on drug abuse in this country.
- (b) Necessarily, all findings are to be taken as tentative and transient because epidemiological conditions of drug abuse change radically and rapidly within a very short time. For instance, prior to 1959 marijuana abuse was very limited. Today marijuana has permeated the secondary schools and colleges all over Manila and its environs. New pharmaceutical products determine the drugs to be abused as a rule. At this writing a sudden change in law enforcement methods is unfolding - martial law is declared.⁹ The heroin manufacturing syndicate has been stopped by the Philippine Constabulary and heroin addicts are frantic - looking for substitutes to relieve their withdrawal distress.¹⁰ Will this condition of heroin shortage prevail long enough to reduce the addiction rates?¹¹ This is a questions posed by people involved in the practice, prevention, control, and study of drug abuse.

V. NOTES

1. Data was collected by use of a structured interview. Average interview time: 20 minutes.
2. Z test significant at 1%
3. Z test significant at 1%
4. Except for Mandrax and Seconal the differences of proportions between drugs listed in tables 2 and 3 are large, hence, difference of proportions tests were not conducted.
5. Marijuana is an introductory drug for most affluent drug abusers but only 10% of lower class drug abusers have begun with marijuana.
6. Manila City Jail Inmates at the time interviewed revealed that 60% of them were in High School. 90% of affluent drug abusers at large however, are in college. This difference brings with it a difference in self concept and opinion toward governmental policy on arrest and punishment of drug abusers.

The two populations were asked the Question: "Should the Government Arrest and Punish Drug Abusers (like you)?"

Responses Categories	Manila City Jail		Metro Manila Drug Abusers	
	Population: 88		at large Sample: 118	
No	:	12	:	73
No Opinion	:	2	:	10
Yes and No, it Depends	:	20	:	8
Yes	:	54	:	27
	:		:	
Total	:	88	:	118

Chi square value = 60.16 with 3 degrees of freedom, significant at 1% Gamma = -0.708

- The interesting chi square test supports the alleged conservatism of the less educated. The more educated and affluent drug abusers feel that the laws should be made more permissive and legalization of drug abuse the ideal condition.
7. The first phase of this study was a survey conducted in December 1971 on college students to develop a technique in assessing incidence of drug abuse on campuses. In this study, students who used marijuana frequently were found to use other drugs concurrently with marijuana; the frequency of marijuana use is directly correlated to the variety of other drugs concurrently abused.
 8. Data Source: Report of the Narcotics Sections, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Manila 1971.
 9. Martial law was declared by the Philippine President on September 21, 1972. The commanding officer of the Philippine Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit, Col. Bienvenido Felix upon interview claimed that the heroin refinery syndicate which his unit arrested a few days after September 21, 1972 would have fallen even if martial law had not been declared since his unit had the warrants for searches and arrest readied earlier. Another position is taken by a subordinate officer from the same unit. Lt. Cdr. Romeo Sanga (retired) working for Col. Felix attributes the success of the constabulary to martial law conditions.

"Without martial law, the arrest of the Chinese masterminded Gan Suo So would have caused influential persons to have the chief, officers and men of the PCANU reassigned to other units. The best lawyers can right away take him (Gan Suo So) away from us preventing us from gaining more information regarding the whereabouts of the location of the main refinery."

10. Strong but indirect evidence suggests that there is only one heroin refinery in the country supplying local addicts with the drug. The price of 35 milligrams of heroin (estimated quantity of pure heroin in a folded paper packet called a "papelito") shot from P1.25 to P18.00, three weeks after the main heroin refinery had been raided by the Constabulary.
11. Two Chinese chemists of the heroin refinery have not been apprehended and may start operating again.